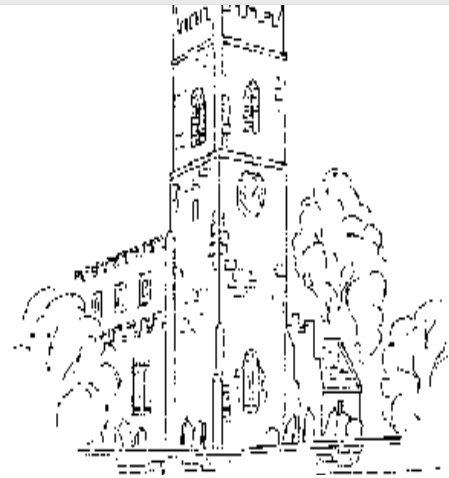


March 2023

**Holy God
our lives are laid
open before you
rescue us from
the chaos of sin
bring us healing
and make
us whole
in Jesus Christ
our Lord**



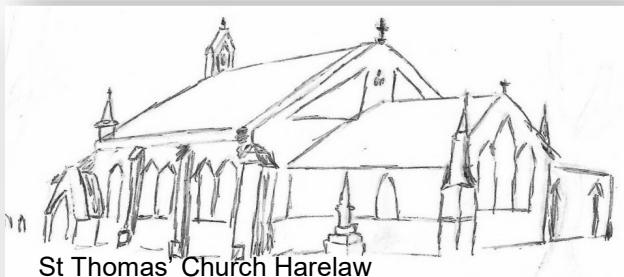
Parish Church of All Saints, Lanchester

Trinity

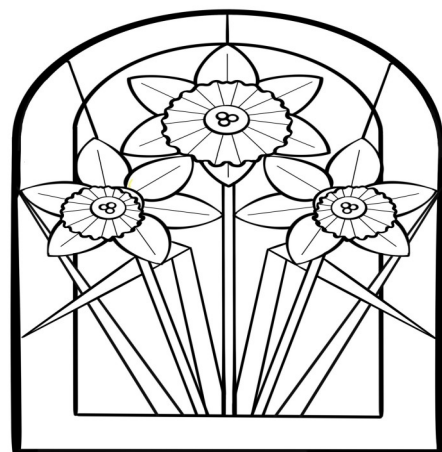
*The Parish magazine of :
All Saints' Parish Church Lanchester,
St John's Church Burnhope,
and St Thomas' Church Harelaw and Annfield Plain*



St. John's Church, Burnhope



St Thomas' Church Harelaw



50p monthly or £5 per year

Parish Church of LANCHESTER & BURNHOPE

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Stephen Burt, Reader Emeritus

SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS', LANCHESTER

8am Every Sunday Eucharist (Traditional Language)

10.30am Principal Service

(Eucharist or Service of the Word)

6.00 pm Evensong Monthly every second Sunday

Wednesdays 9.45 am Holy Communion

HOLY BAPTISM & WEDDINGS -

by arrangement with the Vicar

SERVICES AT ST. JOHN'S, BURNHOPE

1st and 3rd Sunday 9.15 am Said Eucharist

2nd Sunday and any 5th Sunday joint (All Saints)

4th Sunday 9.15am Service of the word

Café Church at The Community Centre every second
Tuesday of the month

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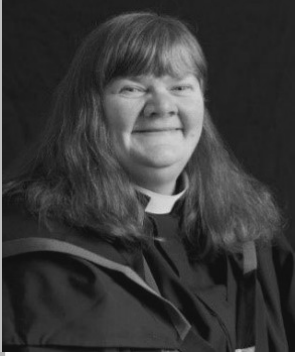
**Contributions to
the Church
Magazine are
always welcome.**



Copy sent by E-mail,

To **robmatthews48@hotmail.com**

**The copy deadline for the
April issue is
Sunday 19th March**



When Brendan ‘Baz’ McCullum was appointed in 2022 to coach redball English cricket, the Test Team was at its lowest ebb for as long as I can remember. They were almost at the bottom of the international rankings, having won just one of their last 17 matches, and the captain, Joe Root, had resigned. The team was lambasted by the media as a team full of second rate cricketers and failures.

But Baz viewed things differently. He described the team as being full of “guys who are maybe just a little bit stuck by the fear of failure rather than the possibility of success”. McCullum goes on; ‘Everyone’s got a fear of failure to a degree, but it’s probably just a little more English than others. That’s one of the beauties of it because that’s where a lot of my skills are, taking a lot of those pressures off people. It’s not going to be easy, I understand that, and there’ll be some guys that get there quicker than others.

But when you do get to that state where you’re [playing the game for the game’s sake, because you enjoy it and you’re invested in it](#), you immerse yourself in that moment and it’s a great game to play. It’s not a great game when you’re worried about all the other stuff which goes on.’

I think McCullum’s analysis is bang on. Fear of failure is so common that there’s a word for it; “atychiphobia”, an abnormal, unwarranted, and persistent fear of failing at something in your life.

Christians ought to be really good at failure. The story of our faith equips us so well for it; our role in the great sweep of God’s salvation narrative is one of constant mistakes and misadventure. Let’s face it, we wouldn’t need to be rescued if we got it right all the time, would we?

But of course we’re not perfect, and scripture underlines our frailties again and again and again.

Jesus sets out very clearly to his disciples that what they’re signing up to isn’t an instant route to worldly success. It won’t earn them a good reputation or honour or glory; it will, in all likelihood, lead to their deaths: ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me’. And not just to death; but to potential alienation from all they hold dear; ‘Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple’ says Jesus. The life of a follower of Christ is a life of failure in the world’s eyes; no honoured place at the top table for us; ‘.....whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all...’

It’s why Dietrich Bonhoeffer sums up discipleship in this way: ‘When Christ calls a man he bids him come and die.’ Jesus knows that to be a follower of his is not be an easy path to walk, and he prepares his followers well for failure. So fear of failure shouldn’t be a factor for us; and yet, here we are, like the England cricket team, sitting despondently in the dressing room, avoiding looking at the scorecard, and eyeing one another up suspiciously as we try to figure out which of us is going to be dropped for the next match.

When Baz McCullum and Ben Stokes took over, England were bumping along the bottom. The simple permission to fail that Baz and Ben have given the players has paid dividends. Under Stokes and McCullum, England have won nine out of their ten Tests, recording thumping victories over New Zealand, India, South Africa and Pakistan.

They’ve scored their highest number of centuries in a calendar year with 22, hit more sixes in a calendar year than any team in Test history with 89, and become the first side to ever whitewash Pakistan in Pakistan. The fear of failure has been removed from England’s setup, with Stokes and McCullum encouraging a more positive and aggressive approach.

Imagine what would happen if we could replicate ‘Bazball’ in our communities- imagine being unafraid to take risks in our own lives, our witness, our discipleship, our outreach? Imagine playing the game for the game’s sake, because we enjoy it and we’re invested in it? Imagine fullness of life, and God’s strength made perfect in our weakness...

Maybe all that we need in order to free us up, as individual Christians and as church, is an inspirational leader telling us not to be afraid?

Hang on a minute....

**Every blessing,
Lesley**



What's in a name?

There are many words and places that strike us with fear, for some one of those words is 'hospice'. For some the word brings dread because we have a preconception that that is where people stay when coming to the end of life. For many it's a place where they said their final goodbyes to a loved one and, if we are honest, it's the last place anyone wants to be.

Willow Burn hospice and St Cuthbert's hospice are set in beautiful surroundings easily missed yet within the walls of these places lie peace, respect, love and dignity for individuals and their families who have been given news that has turned their lives upside down.

How blessed I have been to come alongside people who have spent time in hospice care both at Willow Burn hospice and St Cuthbert's hospice. The time I have spent in these places has opened my eyes to the gift we have in the staff and volunteers and have squashed any preconceptions I once had.

Being told you have a life limiting illness I cannot imagine the rollercoaster of emotions for both the individual and their families. With illness comes pain but it is not always physical, there is emotional, social, and spiritual pain. This brings many practical questions too about coping with the unexpected whether it's the illness itself or more practical matters. Within the hospice there are people around who can offer advice or point you in the right direction of those who can help because the worries and anxieties brought on by illness are more complex than the physical needs.

There are those who will spend time in the hospice for respite care or maybe longer as they approach the end of life. This time in the hospice can be beneficial for both the individual and their loved ones. One lady I met said to me "Being here allows me to be his wife and not his carer". Each moment we have with those we love should be treasured especially at the end of life, and we can only spend quality time with those we love if we are able to care for and take time for ourselves too.

The word Hospice is no longer a word or place that strikes me with fear because I have seen and heard differently. The word hospice for me means support, love, care, dignity. The people who work there are professional yet compassionately living out their own vocation. These places live out Jesus' commandment to 'love thy neighbour' in both word and deed and that compassion goes beyond the death of a loved one.

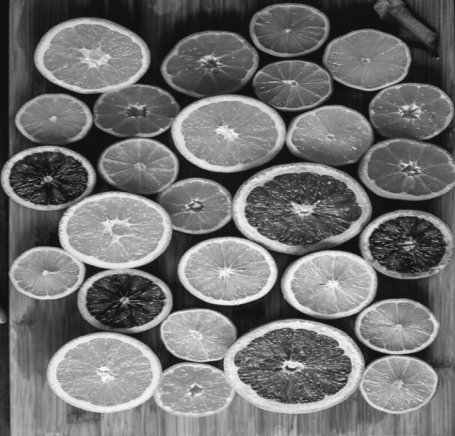
So I pray that God continues to bless all those who work there be it in care, as a volunteer, collecting or offering their support. I pray that those requiring support continue to be able to do so. Our hospices survive on donations so next time you see a collection box drop something in, say a prayer and thank God for places like these.

Best wishes,

Stephen

Parishes of Lanchester and Burnhope, Harelaw
and Annfield Plain

Called to Fruitfulness



Lent Course

All Saints Lanchester Mondays 6pm
St Thomas Harelaw Wednesdays 12.30pm
with bring and share lunch

Home Communion

If you are unable to come to church and wish to receive Home Communion, please contact Revd Stephen (01207 529166) who will be pleased to make the arrangements for you.



Lanchester Burnhope Harelaw and Annfield Plain

Deaths

Trevor Colhoun
Ella Embleton
Joan Hockaday



'May they rest in peace and rise in glory'



Time for some Good News

If you can't bear to watch or read the news, you're not alone. Newly published research shows that more than seven out of ten news publishers are concerned about increasing levels of 'news avoidance.'

More and more people are turning away from the news because it's just too difficult to take. And that may present an opportunity for Christians to present our life-giving gospel message.

The Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism has published its '*Journalism, media, and technology trends and predictions 2023*' report, based on a wide-ranging survey of 303 news leaders in 53 countries. It explores the latest developments in journalism and the priorities for the year ahead.

One area of deep concern was increasing levels of 'news avoidance' with 72 per cent of publishers worried about the phenomenon. Many readers and viewers were avoiding news, especially, says the report "around important but often depressing topics like Ukraine and climate change."

Does this widespread 'news avoidance' have any messages for the Church and for Christians generally? Well, maybe two.

The first is for ourselves. How guilty are we of scrolling past bad news on our social media feed, switching off the TV or radio, or pausing a podcast when the subject matter becomes tough to take?

That's tempting to do, but it's important for Christians to be aware of events and trends across the globe, to enable us to pray intelligently, and to be able to support organisations and people working to make the world a better place.

The second is about how we present our gospel message. We have 'good news' to proclaim, while we are living in a time when people are turning away from news of any kind, seeking instead to look for entertainment and distraction.

In our preaching, in our personal testimonies and in the wide range of ways that we communicate the gospel message of 'abundant life' through Jesus Christ, we are called to be positive and upbeat.

In a world that is turning away from bad news, we have good news to offer. Our mission is to present this good news in ways that can catch the attention of a distracted world that's tired of the gloom and looking for something better.

Source The Parish Pump

The Vicar's lost his iPad!

The Vicar's lost his iPad –
Disaster's come to church!
His sermon's on that iPad
It's left him in the lurch!

He's been looking for that iPad
For most of half an hour,
He's searched the chancel and the nave
So now he's up the tower!

Oh! Where's he put that iPad?
He had it when he came!
He's searching high and searching low
It's driving him insane!

The angels in the hammer beams
For several hundred years
Have witnessed proper order
But now they're all in tears.

For chaos reigns below them
Upon this modern day
For everyone is searching now –
Both clergyman and lay!

The Vicar found his iPad
Tonight, we'll all be sleeping!
He sent a message from his phone
And set his iPad beeping!

And as he holds his iPad
We feel his happy glow;
But could he not have done that trick
That half-an-hour ago?

The answer comes upon us
That trick he could not do!
For, in the caverns of our church
He'd lost his smartphone, too!

Nigel Beeton



NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

Mothers' Union Lanchester



The next meeting will be held on Tuesday March 14th, when our speaker will be Rev. Rosalind Brown, and her talk will be based on Lent Hymns. Our April meeting will be held on Tuesday 11th, when Cath and Harry Gilbert will give a talk, with slides, entitled Land of Ice and Fire. I am starting to explore venues for our summer outing and suggestions as to where we may go would be very welcome.

Eileen Matthews

Mothers' Union Burnhope



Our meeting was held on Monday the 6th February. We read from Pauls' Letter to the Colossians Chapter 3. verse 16 and discussed the word 'admonish'. This was followed by a Biblical quiz.

Mrs Ledger has delivered her baby bonnets, bears and cot blankets directly to University Hospital of North Durham

Muriel Molloy

Fresh batches of Chutney
Tomato Chutney, Freshly made
Apple Chutney & Beetroot and Ginger
chutney all available

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or Jen on 520498

We are happy to deliver.



Padded mobile phone cases
and spectacle cases
(lightweight for ladies' hand-
bags)

Some with cross body strap
some with belt strap
or for handbag
£2.50

All proceeds to Church Funds
Ring Margaret on 521214

The Language of Flowers

LIGHTHEARTEDNESS

SHAMROCK

The shamrock, from the Irish seamrog, "little clover", has become the national emblem of Ireland and is traditionally worn on St Patrick's day, 17th March. Legend states that St Patrick, on an evangelizing mission in Ireland, illustrated the doctrine of Three in One and One in Three of the Trinity with a shamrock and his audience immediately accepted Christianity.



Before then, the shamrock had been used as a pagan charm against witches and fairies, who were supposed to be especially active around 17th March, which was taken to be the end of winter and the beginning of spring. Edmund Spenser, in his View of the Present State of Ireland (c.1597-8) wrote of famine-stricken Irishmen after the wars in Munster:

"And yf they founde a plotte of water-cresses or shamrokes, they flocked as to a feast for the time."

In parts of Ireland "shamrock bread" is made from the flowers and pods.

Audrey Newton

All Saints Parish Church Chapter House

Warm
Space

From 26th January 2023
Thursday 3.30-5.30
Saturday 12-2.00

Free hot drinks and snacks, Wi-Fi and re-charging, games, newspapers...A place for everyone to read, relax, chat and enjoy a warm welcome!

 **THE CHURCH**
OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF DURHAM

 **Warm**
space

100 Club News

We are still collecting money for the 100 club and a double draw will be made in March
(February and March Draws)



Sue Smith and Olga Walker

MACMILLAN QUIZ NIGHT

We would love to see you at our Quiz Night, in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, on Thursday 30th March at 7.30 pm in Lanchester Community Centre. It should be a good evening with a £20 prize for the Team that comes first and excellent prizes for the Team with the lowest score. Tickets cost £5, which includes refreshments in the interval and a lucky ticket number draw. Teams can be of up to 4 members. There will also be an Easter themed raffle with some lovely hampers. Tickets will be limited so please book early to avoid disappointment!

For tickets or enquiries please contact Jackie on 07977 136726

Jackie Easton

THINK FOOD BANK

As a church we are committed to supporting the Food Bank in Consett
(There are now 29 Food Banks operating in the Durham Diocese)

Please don't forget those who depend on the foodbank at this difficult time. Lanchester All Saints is **open** for you to leave donations at present and we have liaised with the Foodbank in Consett to see how we can help. Lanchester donated over a ton of food in the year before lockdown, and many people would struggle without that generosity of spirit.

As it is difficult to collect food for the food bank we have spoken to them and they are happy for us to circulate their bank account details if anyone wants to make money donations on line.

Sort code 40-52-40

Account number 00022928

Cheques for Consett foodbank should be made payable to Consett Food 4U, and posted to Durham Christian Partnership, Unit 7/9, First Avenue, Drum Industrial Estate, Chester-le-Street, County Durham DH2 1AG (0191 303 8623 / 07758 400128)

Church Wives

Already Nature is emerging from its long winter sleep,
God's creative powers are at work, silently but deep.

Changes are happening beneath the dark earth,

Soon it will be time for us to see a rebirth.

Daffodils will be here heralding the Spring,

Winter will be over and our hearts will sing.

At Wives Richard Pears has a story to tell,

About an artist whom we do not know well.

Harriet Carr is her name and we will find out more,

On March the 9th, a treat in store.

March 23rd is the next date to meet,

When Margaret Southworth is coming to speak.

Her talk is entitled 'Poetry of Me'

Interesting, that is sure to be.

Most people in their lives have ups and downs and Faith is a strong contender to help you through difficult times. At the beginning of the day when we are perhaps most vulnerable one particular short prayer comes to my mind

'Dear Lord, let me know this, that there is nothing that I face this day that You and I cannot get through together.' Amen'

Brenda Craddock.

Women's World Day of Prayer

Please note the amended day for this service. The date is March 1st, but it is a Wednesday and not a Friday. It is in the Methodist Church and begins at 1 30 pm. Why not come along and bring a friend!

Brenda.

Julian Prayer Meetings 2pm in the Chapter House



March 6th

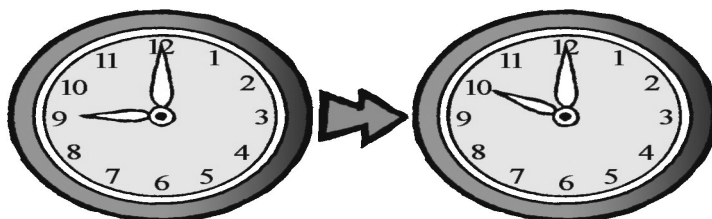
April 3rd

May 1st (Bank Holiday to be confirmed)

June 5th

July 3rd

August 7th (to be confirmed)



Don't Forget Clocks go forward March 26th

Church Flowers in February

Become a litter picker – and earn money

Litter pickers will be able to make about 20p per can or bottle from a new deposit scheme in England and Wales, according to an environment minister.

From 2025, bottles and cans will include a deposit, likely to be 20p, that can be reclaimed when containers are returned to reverse vending machines at designated sites, according to a recent government statement. As one environment minister explained, “there will be an opportunity for people to go around collecting up litter and so forth, and taking it back, and receiving the deposit, which we think might benefit a range of charities and individuals.” The scheme will include all polyethylene terephthalate plastic bottles and cans up to three litres in size, meaning households will have to take their rubbish to a recycling point instead of leaving them on the kerbside for collection.

Councils will be able to cash in on any bottles and cans left in the recycling by collecting the deposit. The exact amount of the deposit will be decided by a new quango that will run the scheme, which was first announced in 2017. The scheme is expected to save local authorities around £35 million a year by reducing the amount of recycling they pick up. The UK uses 14 billion plastic drink bottles, and nine billion drink cans every year. The country already recycles around 70 per cent of these.

Source The Parish Pump



Save the Date - National Day of Reflection & Great Daffodil Appeal 2023

For the third year running, Marie Curie will lead the National Day of Reflection on Thursday 23rd March.

It is a day for everyone to remember loved ones who have died, and to support people who are grieving. There will be a minute's silence at noon, a nationwide network of Walls of Reflection, and a series of grief-themed online events. Taking place on the third anniversary that the UK went into lockdown, the National Day of Reflection raises awareness of the impact of grief on our lives and of the need for better support. Millions of people across the UK – adults as well as children – are grieving now and need support, whether in the workplace, at home, in schools or across communities. The National Day of Reflection also ties in with the charity's flagship annual fundraising appeal in March – the Great Daffodil Appeal – with people donating and wearing one of their iconic daffodil pin badges. Every year thousands of supporters from across the UK come together to raise money to support the charity's nurses, doctors, and hospice staff so they can continue to provide expert care to people at end of life, and their families. More details at

www.mariecurie.org.uk/dayofreflection



Traidcraft

As most of you are aware our stock of Fairtrade items has been very low in the past year as we came out of covid rules, and the sales have not really picked up. A discussion at the PCC meeting was going to take place in January as to how we were going to move forward with Fairtrade produce and it was not looking at all hopeful. However the week before the meeting I received the following email from Traidcraft PLC which I would like to share with you all. You will then realise the decision had been taken out of our hands, Traidcraft plc was going into administration.

This obviously is very sad and I would like to say I have enjoyed my last 10 years running Traidcraft's fairtrade stand etc, and would like to thank you all for your continued support and help over those years.

Traidcraft plc going into administration

It is with tremendous sadness that we announce that Traidcraft PLC is going into administration. The business has been in a weak financial position for some years and the Covid-19 pandemic presented a significant new set of challenges. Just as we were emerging from the pandemic, like many other retailers, we faced the combined effects of the war in Ukraine, rising energy prices, and increased transport costs. Sadly, despite the heroic efforts of our team at Gateshead, low consumer confidence during the critical autumn trading period led to a sales result significantly short of what was required to sustain the operation. December sales were also negatively impacted by the uncertainty created by Royal Mail strikes. After much deliberation and following advice from external advisors, we have come to the conclusion that the only honourable course of action is to appoint administrators. Our hope is that by doing this in a timely manner, we can minimise the impact on our suppliers and creditors. It is heartbreaking to bring the Traidcraft plc story to an end in this manner but we can at least take some consolation from the knowledge that we have been a major force for good in the ethical retail sector for over forty years. We have championed the cause of trade justice to the point where we now have better standards and procedures in place to protect the rights and dignity of growers and producers all over the world. We would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to all those who have journeyed with us as employees, board members, shareholders and suppliers. We would particularly like to thank our loyal band of “Fairtraders”, many of whom have been with us since the very beginning. The mission to combat trade injustice and poverty is far from complete. It is important to recognise that Transform Trade (previously Traidcraft Exchange, the charity arm of Traidcraft) will continue its vital work supporting producers and fighting for trade justice and people centred trade. Our hope and prayer is that others will also emerge to pick up the torch that we have carried for four decades.

Board of Directors Traidcraft plc January 2023

Olga Walker

Pauline's Meditation

One of the most moving books I have ever read is "The Last of The Just", by Andre Schwartz-Bart. It was the author's first book, and won him the Prix Goncourt, France's highest literary prize. It has its basis in the legend of the Lamed-Vav - a legend which originated in the central text of Rabbinic law, the Talmud.

According to the legend at any time on earth there are thirty-six righteous people in every generation living on earth for whose sake God does not destroy creation, no matter how much people anger Him. They are the Lamed-Vav (the name means "thirty-six" and comes from the Hebrew words for 30 (lamed) and for 6 (vav)). Without their presence, the world would not exist. There is no way to know whether or not someone is a Lamed-Vavnik, they almost never know themselves. They are people whose characters and deeds are so generous and pure that they justify the continued existence of humanity (a reminder, perhaps of Genesis 18 where Abraham persuaded God not to destroy the city of Sodom if only 10 just men lived there).

The Lamed-Vavnik are pure souls - so pure, courageous and quietly self-giving that they endure the suffering of the entire world on behalf of all of the billions of other souls who live on it. If even one of them was missing, the pain of the world would be too great for humanity to survive it - we would suffocate with a single cry. The moment that one dies, another pure soul is appointed to take his or her place. Their continued presence underpins all of creation. According to Hassidic legend, such is the weight of human suffering that they bear, that when a Lamed-Vavnik dies "he is so frozen that God must warm him for a thousand years between his fingers before his soul can open itself up to Paradise, and some remain ever inconsolable to human woe, so that even God himself cannot warm them."

The story covers 800 years of the Levy family, beginning when more than a hundred Jewish men and their families were slaughtered in an anti-Semitic riot in York in 1190, virtually wiping out the town's entire Jewish population. (Such a massacre is a historical fact. There is a plaque in memory of these poor, murdered souls on the Clifford Tower. It is described by English Heritage as "one of the worst anti-Semitic massacres of the Middle Ages", and was most likely prompted by local noblemen who saw an opportunity to wipe out their debts to Jewish moneylenders) Among these Jewish townspeople is Rabbi Yom Tom Levy. Yom leads the remaining survivors into a tower where, with their agreement, he kills them and then himself, choosing to die as martyrs rather than be murdered by the mob, or forced to "convert" to Christianity.

God is so touched by the gesture of sacrifice, that he promises that one Lamed-Vavnik of every generation will be a direct descendent of Levy. By a miracle Solomon, the youngest son of Yom, survives the massacre, as Isaac survived Abraham's sacrificial intent, and grows to manhood watched over by angels, when God tells him who and what he is and that "You are the first, you are that one, you are holy"

We thus follow the history of the Levy family, which is a history of Jewish persecution in Europe. From exclusion to expulsion to massacre to pogrom, a member of the Levy family continues to be appointed as a Just Man. Some family members become arrogant because of the family's status - brothers fight over the honour, only for it to be passed not to the most holy or most successful or most learned, but to a despised gentle-natured simpleton who lives alone in a hut with his dogs and cats, and doesn't (as far as his brothers are concerned) have anything to recommend him to the role. A lesson that God sees the inner person, and judges the truth.

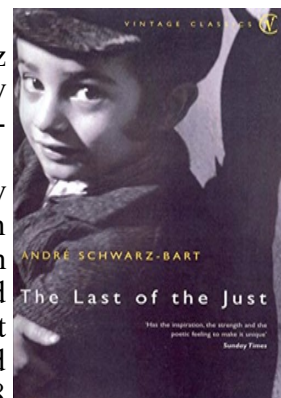
This book is a history lesson in anti-Semitism as well as a novel. Throughout the generations, the Lamed-Vavnik live and die through the men of the Levy family. The background centuries are quickly flown over until the novel culminates, of course, in the final and most terrible of horrors - the Holocaust.

Which is when we begin the story of the Last of the Just, Ernie Levy. First, we meet the Vavnik, Mordecai Levy. It is 1933, the year Hitler rises to power. Mordecai's task is to prepare the next Just Man in the Levy family, his grandson Ernie. Ernie is a shy and sensitive boy, who likes to sit inside and read. Though very young he works to prepare himself for the trials he will face. He grows up in the brutal regime that is Nazi Germany, sees boys he thought were his friends turn against him, falls in love and is married. Predictably, he and his wife die in Auschwitz. He has no successor. There are now only thirty-five Just Souls in the world. Humanity cannot continue . . . and nor does the novel it ends with Ernie.

Michael Dorris reviewing the book for the Los Angeles Times said, "how easily torn is the precious fabric of civilization, and how destructive are the consequences of dumb hatred, whether a society's henchmen are permitted to beat an Ernie Levy because he's Jewish, or because he's black or gay or Hispanic or homeless."

Despite all of the lessons we ought to have learned, we still live in a world which is riven by war and prejudice, where bullies are allowed to flourish - and are even celebrated. Is it so very difficult to treat everybody with the same respect, all of the time? Can you imagine how different our world would look? And if we didn't just respect other people, but creation, too - God's Kingdom would be here in all its fullness. I truly believe there are more good people in the world than bad - it is up to us to hallow God's name in our actions, and not just with our lips; to lift pain from each other; and to strive to be righteous,

"O companions of our ancient exile, as the rivers go to the sea, all our tears flow into the heart of God." - Andre Schwartz-Bart



Pauline Meek

Editor: The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace' If you would like a copy of the published booklet of Uncle Eustace's letters, please email The Parish Pump at: enquiries@parishpump.co.uk

**The Rectory
St James the Least**

My dear Nephew Darren,

Those parishioners of yours who won millions on the Lottery and moved into this parish have created quite a stir. It was perhaps a little unwise of them to tell everyone the reason why they had become so wealthy. While most of our parishioners also do the Lottery, few would ever admit it in public. (Since your friends arrived, the entire PCC is buying ever more lottery tickets, but from the shop in the NEXT village, to try and keep it secret.)

However, your family still has much to learn about our country ways. Buying the old Dower House was impressive; and spending a small fortune re-stocking the gardens was certainly commendable. But someone should have told them about installing cattle grids. It must have been quite a shock for them to wake up one morning and find the thirty sheep from the neighbouring field had wandered in for breakfast.

Their brand-new purple Ferrari has certainly brightened up the country lanes around here. The noise it makes as it roars up behind you quite quickens the pulse. Mrs Beamish had been suffering with low blood pressure for months; she says she is quite cured now. The Colonel, who is all for the community supporting the church, then asked if the newcomers would drive the bishop around on the day he came to do his tour of the parish. The Colonel thought that an open-topped purple Ferrari would make a great bishop-mobile; and the newcomers were so kind to agree. What a shame that they decided to accomplish the several miles of parish lanes in record time: the bishop barely even saw the several farmers that they nearly ran down. His new nickname in this parish is: The Purple Peril.

The newcomers have installed security lighting, which is understandable. But now I wonder how much sleep they are getting, as the rabbits, foxes, and badgers who live in their grounds keep it flood-lit for much of the night. Meanwhile, the Colonel is grumbling about the effect of light pollution on his young pheasants in the woods nearby.

But these little inconveniences apart, I am sure they will soon feel at home. I feel confident that by the third generation, they will be properly settled in. Your loving uncle,

Eustace



From the Wardens

As ever the wardens continue to support Lesley as she continues to balance her work in the two parishes (and beyond).

We are continuing the warm space initiative in all Churches with limited take up which appears to be similar to other Churches and warm hub initiatives in the village.

In All Saints to maximise the warmth, we have had the Chapter House heating system checked, the radiators bled and all valves checked. It was found that most of the TRVs (Thermostatic Radiator Valves) were inoperative due to the pins inside the valves sticking. Most of the valves were incorrectly fitted within the Low Surface Temperature cases and have now been removed. This has resulted in better temperatures in the Chapter House. We are awaiting costings for a future replacement boiler to serve the Chapter House, and in the shorter term a thermostat which the system has never had, other than the individual radiator TRVs.

As we approach Lent and look onwards to Easter, we would like to give our most grateful thanks to Sarah Allison and her husband Malcolm who have steadfastly looked after the Church Linen ensuring Altar Frontals etc are colour changed in accordance with the Church calendar. After many years of carrying out the duty they are giving this up at Easter. We would if at all possible like to hear of anyone within our church who would be willing to take on this vital role. Please contact the Wardens or Lesley if you feel that you are able to do this duty.

For The Wardens
Rob Matthews

Want to lose weight? Cut your calories by 216 a day

According to recent research, even a modest reduction in calorie intake can make a big difference over a sustained period. Or to put it another way, an extra 200 calories a day will make you gain about a stone a year in weight.

Rates of obesity in the UK have doubled over the past 30 years. Two-thirds of us are now overweight or obese, and it is costing the NHS more than £6billion per year.

On a personal level, research has found that making small, incremental changes in your diet are more likely to be successful than dramatic interventions. Examples of small changes for the good might include "reducing your 'eating window', cutting out the habit of certain snacks, and having bigger meals less often." It is estimated that between 20 and 25 per cent of UK calories are eaten as snacks.

The research was carried out by the charity Nesta.



LANCHESTER E.P (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Personally, I always find the start of the year quite a challenge. My baby son, father, mother-in-law and father-in-law all died in January and February so it is always quite a relief when 1st March comes. I know many people find January tough but the lighter nights and mornings are a sign that better times are ahead.

However, it does not matter what is happening in the outside world, because as soon as you set foot in our school, your spirit is lifted with the sound of happy children. A teaching assistant only last week said how she loves to see the children skip into school – and that is what they do every morning – long may that last!

We have had a very busy start to the year with lots happening – as usual! Mr Osmond is working with some of our oldest children who will become our Worship Leaders. We hope to give you the opportunity to see them in action very soon. Revd Lesley and Revd Stephen also led a very special Ashing Service in school just before half term which was also attended by two of our foundation governors – Margaret Matthews and Cath Bailey. It was a very special service and one which I am sure the children will remember for a long time to come. We are also looking forward to leading Worship in church on Sunday 5th March as well – we do hope that this will become a more regular occurrence.

We are absolutely thrilled to welcome Margaret and Chelsea into school every week too. Some of our most vulnerable children look forward to their weekly visit and love talking to Chelsea and reading to her as well. She just sits so patiently while we see the children visibly become at ease. Margaret just seems to know exactly what to say and some really special relationships are being made.

We were all very saddened when one of our mums died in January, leaving a very young daughter behind with her daddy. Once again, the whole school community has been rocked by such tragic news. Little did we realise how our recent bereavement training from Willow Burn Hospice would come in so useful so quickly. It is another reminder how fragile life is, how important relationships are and also how crucial our school community is in times of real need.

As we start our half-term break, 24 children and 6 adults are busy preparing to travel to Dubai for a week. We fly from Newcastle Airport on Friday 24th February and are in Dubai for a week, immersing ourselves in the Emirati culture whilst also learning about Islam. A visit to the mosque, along with time in our two partner schools and a trip to the desert will certainly help to make this an amazing week for all. Another life-changing trip for some of our oldest children.

Mrs Jane Davis

Head Teacher, Lanchester Endowed Parochial (Controlled) Primary School

World Water Day is 22nd March

We take clean water for granted. After all, when did you last turn on the tap and expect filthy water to come out?

But sadly, bad water is still a daily reality for billions of people. The United Nations wants to help them by ensuring that everyone can access clean water by 2030. It is part of the so-called '2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development', and it is an enormous challenge.

Meanwhile, this year each one of us can do at least something to help on 22nd March. A donation to Water Aid will help provide safe water to marginalised communities worldwide. Simply go to: www.wateraid.org/uk

Source The Parish Pump



Dates for your Diary March 2023

Wed 1st 9.45 am Eucharist at All Saints
12.30 Lent Course; Called to Fruitfulness, St Thomas'

Thurs 2nd 9.00 am Morning Prayer St Thomas
3.30 —5.30 All Saints Warm Space (Chapter House)
3.30 —5.30 Burnhope Community Centre Warm Space

Sat 4th 12.30-2.30pm All Saints Warm Space (Chapter House)

Sun 5th 8.00 am Eucharist at All Saints
9.15 am Eucharist at St John's
9.45 am Service of the word St Thomas
10.30am Parish Eucharist at All Saints

Mon 6th 2.00pm Julian Prayer Meeting—The Chapter House
6.00 Lent Course; Called to Fruitfulness, All Saints

Tues 7th 11.00am Meditation in The Chapter House
3.30 —5.30pm Burnhope Community Centre Warm Space

Wed 8th 9.45am Eucharist at All Saints
12.30 Lent Course; Called to Fruitfulness, St Thomas
7.00pm PCC Meeting in Chapter House

Thurs 9th 9.00am Morning Prayer St Thomas
3.30 —5.30 All Saints Warm Space (Chapter House)
3.30 —5.30 Burnhope Community Centre Warm Space
7.00pm Church Wives in Chapter House Harriet Carr (Artist) Richard Pears

Sat 11th 12.30-2.30pm All Saints Warm Space (Chapter House)

Sun 12th 8.00 am Eucharist at All Saints
9.45 am Eucharist at St Thomas
10.30am Service of the Word at All Saints (Joint Service)
6.00 pm Evensong

Mon 13th 6.00 Lent Course; Called to Fruitfulness, All Saints

Tues 14th 11.00 am Meditation in the Chapter House
2.00 pm Mothers' Union in the Chapter House
Lent Hymns—Revd Rosalind Brown
3.30 —5.30pm Burnhope Community Centre Warm Space
6.00pm Café Church Burnhope Community Centre

Wed 15th 9.45am Eucharist at All Saints
12.30 Lent Course; Called to Fruitfulness, St Thomas

Thur 16th 9.00 am Morning Prayer St Thomas
11.00am Holy Communion Lynwood House
3.30 —5.30 All Saints Warm Space (Chapter House)
3.30 —5.30 Burnhope Community Centre Warm Space

Sat 18th 12.30-2.30pm All Saints Warm Space (Chapter House)
Wedding at All Saints with bells

Sun 19th 8.00 am Eucharist at All Saints
9.15 am Eucharist at St John's
9.45 am Service of the Word St Thomas
10.30am Parish Eucharist at All Saints

Mon 20th 6.00pm Lent Course; Called to Fruitfulness, All Saints

Tues 21st 11.00am Meditation in The Chapter House
3.30 —5.30pm Burnhope Community Centre Warm Space

Wed 22nd 9.45am Eucharist at All Saints
12.30 Lent Course; Called to Fruitfulness, St Thomas'

Thurs 23rd 9.00 am Morning Prayer St Thomas
3.30 —5.30 All Saints Warm Space (Chapter House)
3.30 —5.30 Burnhope Community Centre Warm Space
7.00 pm Church Wives in The Chapter House
'Poetry of Me' Margaret Southworth

Sat 25th 12.30-2.30pm All Saints Warm Space (Chapter House)

Sun 26th 8.00 am Eucharist at All Saints
9.15 am Service of the Word St John's
9.45 am Eucharist at St Thomas
10.30am Parish Eucharist at All Saints

Mon 27th 6.00 Lent Course; Called to Fruitfulness, All Saints

Tues 28th

11.00am Meditation in The Chapter House
3.30 —5.30pm Burnhope Community Centre Warm Space

Wed 29th

9.45am Eucharist at All Saints
12.30 Lent Course; Called to Fruitfulness, St Thomas'

Thurs 30th

9.00 am Morning Prayer St Thomas
10.00 am Burnhope School Easter Service
3.30 —5.30 All Saints Warm Space (Chapter House)
3.30 —5.30 Burnhope Community Centre Warm Space

Healing Hands

We thank you Lord, for healing hands
With which to help each other.
To share Your power with those in need
Our sisters and our brothers.

We thank you Lord, for praying hands
A channel of Your peace,
To comfort those, both near and far,
When human efforts cease.

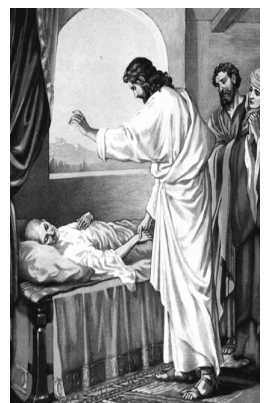
We thank you Lord, for working hands
The hands that help and give
In many small, un-noticed ways
To help the needy live.

We thank you Lord, for praising hands
For gifts that worship You
For music, art and other skills
That help our journey through.

We thank you Lord, for loving hands
That were nailed there on the tree
That took my selfishness and greed
And died there, just for me.

We thank you Lord,
for reigning hands
Your power upon the throne,
The hands that one day welcome us
When we reach our Heavenly home

Julie Woodford



And from St Thomas



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Apology

In the last issue an opinion to a previous article about Aneurin Bevan was printed. My apologies to Donald Elsom who submitted the piece. His name was deleted inadvertently during the edit.

Editor

Lord, Where Were You.

Where were you when the planes struck
Where were you when the buildings shook
Where were you when the fireball burst
Where were you when the pain was worst.
Where were you.

I was there on every floor
I was there when they cried 'No More'
I was there to love and embrace
I was there on each tear stained face
I was there

Where were you when the buildings fell
Where were you when we knew this hell
Where were you when the victims cried
Where were you when the children died
Where were You?

I was there in the horror and the pain
I was there in both those planes
I was there in the scorching flame
I was there to take the BLAME

I was There
By Andy George

Poem submitted by Angela Graham

St Thomas' Mothers Union



We are due to meet on Monday 6th March when Cyril Robinson is coming to speak to us. Unfortunately our numbers are depleting and new members would be made very welcome. We usually meet on the 1st Monday in the month at 2pm in the Church room.

Anne Whiteley

Present

For their elderly vicar's 70th birthday, the congregation at St Mary's decided to give him a present of a new suit. The vicar was so moved by the gift that the following Sunday he stood before everyone and began his homily with a tear in his eye, "Today I am preaching to you in my birthday suit."

Book Reviews

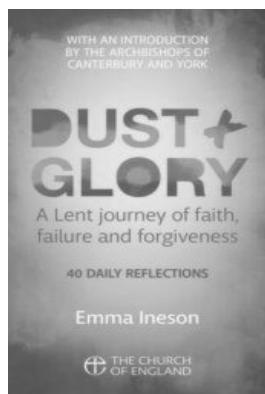


Hope for Ukraine – stories of grit and grace from the Front Lines of war
By Kyle Duncan and Esther Fedorkevich, Baker Publishing via Eden.co.uk, £14.99

Part narrative, part wartime dispatch, *Hope for Ukraine* transports you into the gritty reality of war-

torn Ukraine—and the front lines of faith, survival, and miraculous intervention. From scrambling to escape the bombs levelling their neighborhoods to fleeing sex traffickers in the chaos of border crossings to rescuing orphans trapped by Russian tanks, these stunning first-hand accounts tell the stories of real Ukrainians enduring terrible hardships with grit and grace.

Kyle Duncan and Esther Fedorkevich both have deep family ties to Ukraine, and they take the reader inside the conflict, with dramatic boots-on-the-ground stories and eyewitness accounts of Ukrainian refugees, aid workers, soldiers, and families affected by the conflict. These stories reveal the unbreakable spirit of a nation under siege. Even amid the chaos and tragedy of Europe's largest war since World War II, God is indeed at work in redemptive ways.



Dust and Glory
40 daily reflections for Lent on faith, failure & forgiveness
By Emma Ineson, CHP, £1.99

Dust and Glory is the Church of England's Lent campaign for 2023. Offering 40 daily reflections for Lent on faith, failure

and forgiveness, it invites you to find God in the mess of everyday life. Each week it considers the idea of failure from a different angle and explores the difference God's redeeming work in Jesus makes to the struggles and shortcomings of human life. Make sense of life's challenges, and draw closer to God during Lent. The book will also be the 2023 Big Church Read for Lent.

Prayer Tip for the Month

Are there special places where you have known the Lord's touch on your life? Thank God for the times and places where you have received comfort, hope and new direction



Smile Lines



A prayer for Lent

Dear Father in Heaven

In this month, when Lent begins, we remember Jesus' experience in the wilderness. The world today can seem like a wilderness. So many difficult, incomprehensible things going on. It is tempting to turn away in horror or denial, tempting to look out for ourselves, tempting to take the easy path, to pay attention to whatever the culture dangles before our eyes.

Lord, please help us. We need your word to guide us. We need your Holy Spirit to fill and strengthen us. Help us to give our attention and our worship only to you.

Lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil. Thank you, Father, for Jesus, who by his death and resurrection, opens the way to you. Help us to renew our trust in him and through him, to walk with you every day. In his name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching





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